



# ISLAMOPHOBIA In America

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# Islamophobia in 2015

## Year in Review

# What is Islamophobia?

The term Islamophobia was originally coined in 1991 in a Runnymede Trust Report as “unfounded hostility toward Muslims, and therefore fear or dislike of all or most Muslims.” ([University of California, Berkeley, Center for Race & Gender](#))

CAIR (Council on American-Islamic Relations) defines **Islamophobia** as “closed-minded prejudice against or hatred of Islam and Muslims.”



# Statistics on Islamophobic Attacks on American Muslims Since Paris

“According to data collected by the Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR), Islamophobic incidents at mosques jumped in 2015. As of December 17, there were 71 incidents across the country, including vandalism, threats, harassment, and biased zoning proceedings for communities seeking to build mosques. This number is the highest CAIR has recorded since it started counting in 2009, and is three times higher than the total number of mosque incidents last year.”

[\(Georgetown University, Islamophobia in 2015: The Good, the Bad, and the Hopeful, December 21, 2015\)](#)



# Attack on Elderly Sikh Man

[As Reported by Daily Mail.com 12/28/15](#)

'Why are you here?'

Elderly Sikh man struck with a car and brutally beaten by two thugs yelling racial slurs in horror hate attack.

Amrik Singh Bal, 68, who has a long white beard and wears a turban, was attacked by two white men in Fresno, California, Saturday morning.

Police say suspects struck Bal with rear bumper of their car and then proceeded to beat him while yelling racial obscenities.

Bal suffered a broken collar bone and abrasions to his face and hand.

Video Report can be seen on ABC 30 [here](#) 12/28/15





Juan [redacted]

1 hr · [privacy icon]

Some random guy on 1st Ave just called me a "fucking Arab motherfucker"; fucking terrorist leave this country, we're gonna blow you all up". And proceeded to spit on me.

Like? My heart goes out to my Arab and Muslim friends who are the true targets of this hatred. You don't deserve having to live with this reality in this country.

Those of us who are non-Muslim and/or non-Arab need to be aware of the growing ethnonationalist violence based on whiteness and Christianity in this country and support the international Arab and Muslim communities.

Especially on faith, a narrative often ignored. The Church calls for us to fight injustice and it is dogma that all people are of equal worth and that God loves us all and violations and transgressions upon this human worth is sin.

May God have mercy on us all and the cruelty this society creates.

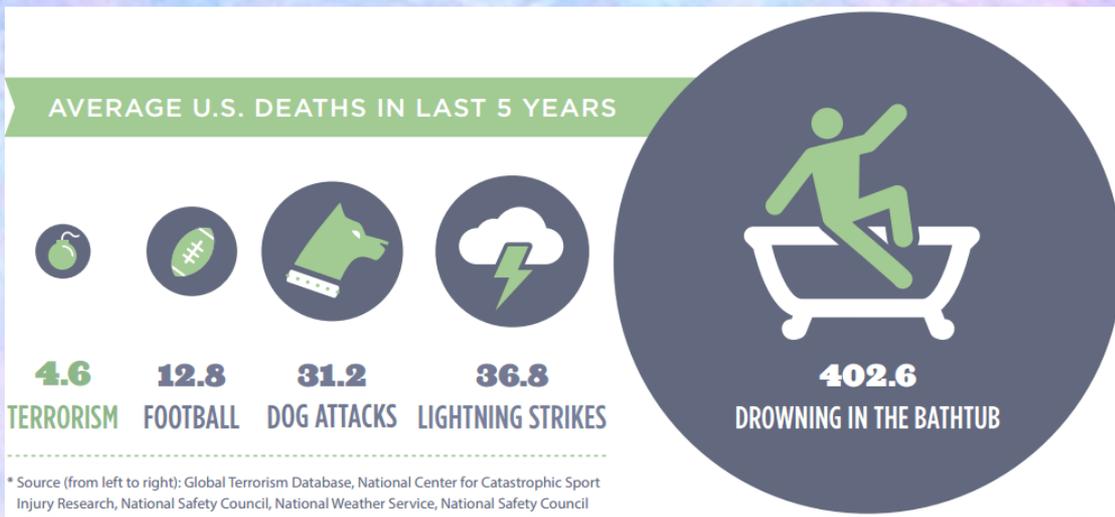
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# NYU Latino Student Mistaken for Muslim Gets Spit On. His Response Will Warm Your Heart

Nathan Wellman | November 20, 2015,

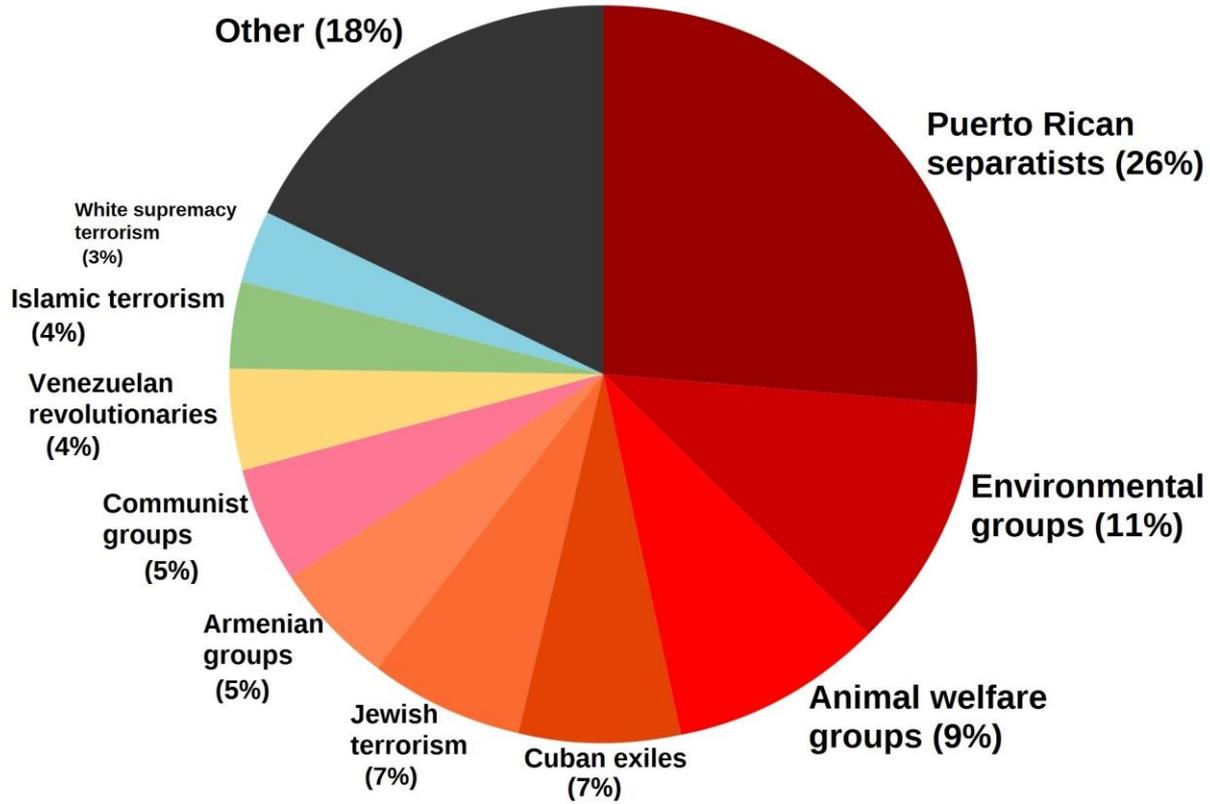
“Rather than respond with more hate, Juan was moved to give roses to different Muslims at NYU in a ‘gesture of solidarity and sympathy,’ according to Latif.”



# What the Statistics Show and the Experts Say.

1 in 20 million  
 — Chance of dying in a terrorist attack in the United States from 2007 to 2011, according to Richard Barrett, coordinator of the United Nations al Qaeda/Taliban Monitoring Team.

The perpetrators of each terrorist incident on U.S. soil from 1980-September 2014.



# 336 days, 355 mass shootings

Number of mass shootings (4+ victims, including shooter) by day of year, 2015

0 1 2 3+



Out of 355 mass shootings, only 3 are attributed to Muslims, and are the only ones considered to be terrorist attacks.

May 3, 2015: Garland, TX at the Mohammed Art Exhibit. Only the gunmen were killed. Terrorist attack.

July 16, 2015: Chattanooga, TN at a military recruitment center. 4 Marines and a sailor were killed. His motive is unknown, yet this is considered a terrorist attack.

Dec. 2, 2015 San Bernardino, CA. 14 people killed. No motive has been confirmed yet by the FBI, but it is considered a terrorist attack.

According to Global Research, Centre for Research  
on Globalization, October 23, 2015:

You are **35,079** times more likely to die from **heart disease** than from a terrorist attack.

You are **33,842** times more likely to die from **cancer** than from a terrorist attack.

You are **23,528** times more likely to die from **obesity** than from a terrorist attack.

You are **5,882** times more likely to die from a **medical error** than from a terrorist attack.

You are **4,706** times more likely to die from **alcoholism** than from a terrorist attack.

You are **1,904** times more likely to die from a **car accident** than from a terrorist attack.

You are **2,059** times more likely to **commit suicide** than die from a terrorist attack.

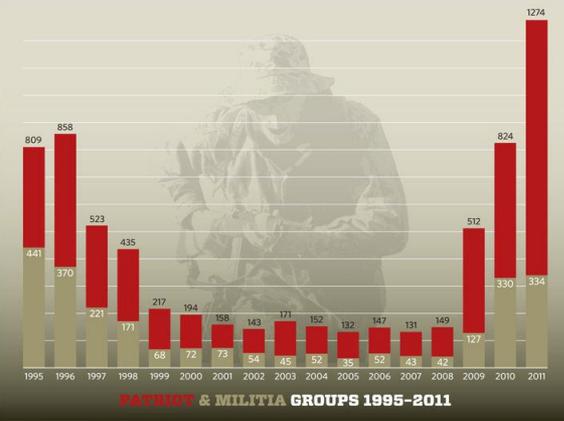
You are **452** times more likely to die from **risky sexual behavior** than from terrorism.

You are **353** times more likely to **fall to your death** than die from a terrorist attack.

You are **271** times more likely to die from a **workplace accident** than terrorism.

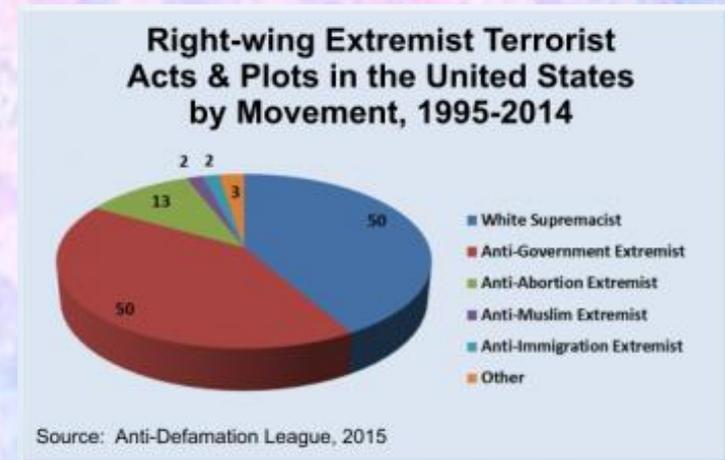
You are **110** times more likely to die from **contaminated food** than a terrorist attack.

# Terrorist Organizations In The United States



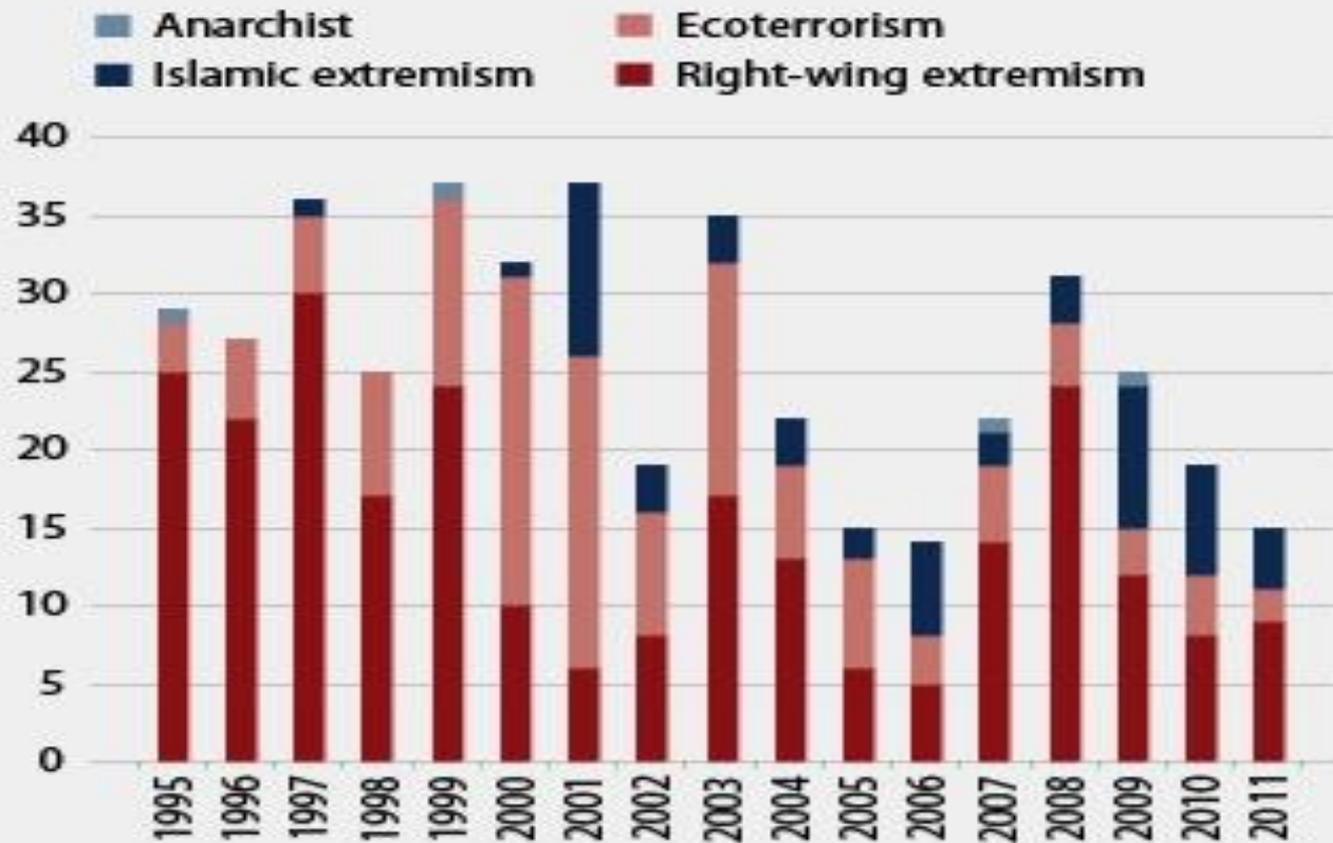
According to the Department of Justice, the current threats of domestic terrorism come from the following groups: “animal rights extremists, eco-terrorists, anarchists, antigovernment extremists such as ‘sovereign citizens’ and unauthorized militias, Black separatists, White supremacists, anti-abortion extremists, and other unaffiliated disaffected Americans, including ‘lone wolfs’.”

12/8/14



## Unaddressed threats

Terrorist incidents occurring in the United States since 1995 by perpetrator ideology



Sources: National Counterterrorism Center; National Consortium for the Study of Terrorism and Responses to Terrorism; Southern Poverty Law Center

Center for American Progress

THINKPROGRESS

**"CHART: 17 Years After Oklahoma City Bombing, Right-Wing Extremism Is Significant Domestic Terror Threat,"** April 19, 2012

# Causes of Islamophobia

- The leading cause of Islamophobia is misinformation or complete lack of information on the religion.
- Media misrepresentation of the religion and the amplification of any crimes committed by Muslims. If a Muslim commits a crime, it is automatically deemed a terrorist attack and the whole faith and the Muslim community are held responsible.
- Current presidential candidates who are encouraging hatred towards Muslims. "At a time of increasing Islamophobia in our nation, intensified in part by the inflammatory rhetoric of public figures like Donald Trump....," said CAIR National Executive Director Nihad Awad.



# Misconceptions About Islam Held By Islamophobic People

- Islam is unchanging and refuses to adapt to new realities or changing times.
- Islam shares no common values with any of the other major religions.
- Islam is no longer relevant and its ideals are irrational.
- Islam is tied to terrorism.
- Islam promotes violence.
- Muslims want Sharia law to be the governing law of the United States.





# Islamophobia & Its Impact on Muslims

As Islamophobia increases, so do the number of attacks on innocent citizens, both Muslim and Non-Muslim.

Reports from school bullying to workplace discrimination to verbal and physical attacks out on the streets are at an all-time high.



# Islamophobia's Impact on Muslim Children

According to Van Jones, CNN Commentator, suicide hotlines have seen an increase of 900% by American Muslim Teens.

Bullying of Muslim children has increased by 600%.

According to 2014 CAIR survey: 52% of Muslim children in Middle and High school reported being "verbally insulted or abused because of their faith."

29% of Muslim girls who wore the hijab reported offensive touching or pulling off their head scarves.

75% of all cases go unreported.

This kind of conduct can jeopardize students' ability to learn.

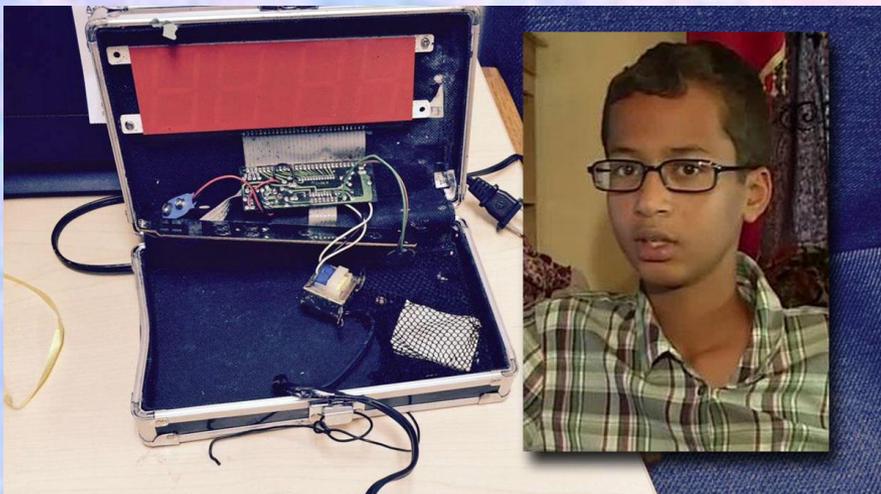
It undermines their physical and emotional well being.

It can also provoke retaliatory acts and exacerbate community conflicts.

# Adult Bullying of Muslim Children

If it isn't bad enough that bullying of Muslim children by their peers has increased by 600%, Muslim children are also subjected to bullying by adults.

According to the report "Adult Bullying of Muslim Kids: A National Challenge" by Engy Abdelkarer (October 23, 2015, Berkley Center for Religion, Peace & World Affairs, Georgetown University), here are a number of statements made by teachers and school board members in 2015:



# Adult Bullying of Muslim Children

“In August, in Virginia, the chair of a local school board posted an anti-Muslim cartoon that states, **‘Muslims hate pork, beer, dogs, bikinis, Jesus, and freedom of speech. My question is, what the hell do they come to America for?!’** ”

“In July, a Maryland middle school teacher expressed anti-Muslim sentiment when she told a young Muslim student, **‘You terrorist. You little Osama. You have a bomb in your locker.’** ”

“In June, a local Michigan school board member referred to Muslims as **‘7th century Islamic goat [lovers]’** in a public Facebook post that also contained profanity.”

# Adult Bullying of Muslim Children

“In May, the US Department of Education initiated a federal investigation into a Maryland high school teacher’s anti-Muslim statements to his students including **‘Muslims are dangerous. They are terrorists, and they will kill you.’** ”

“In April, a local Texan school board launched an investigation into a government high school teacher’s anti-Muslim class materials depicting **Islam as an ‘ideology of war’** and prompting the educator’s resignation.”

“Also in March, Michigan school officials suspended a French language high school teacher for five days because she repeatedly referred to a Muslim student in February as a **‘raghead Taliban.’** ”

# Muslims and Workplace Discrimination



# Muslims and Workplace Discrimination

A 2013 study on workplace discrimination and Muslims, conducted by Carnegie Mellon, showed Muslim applicants who claimed to be Muslim on their social media accounts received a lower call rate for an interview than other applicants. **And since the 9/11 attacks, there has been a 250% increase in complaints regarding religious discrimination in the workplace.** The Center for American Progress states, “And while Muslims make up 2 percent of the U.S. population, they accounted for one quarter of the religious discrimination complaints filed in 2011.”

Amitabh Pal of Progressive.org states, “The findings of the study are not surprising, given the barrage of media reports that tie Muslim Americans to terror plots, creating a false impression that Muslim Americans are prone to violence and anti-Americanism.”

([Muslim Americans Face Widespread Job Discrimination](#), Amitabh Pal, 12/6/13)

# Muslims and Workplace Discrimination

## Muslim-American man wins nearly \$1.2 million in job discrimination case

A Muslim American man from Ypsilanti has won a nearly \$1.2 million jury award after successfully arguing he was **harassed, taunted and discriminated against at work because of his religion, race and appearance — most notably, his long beard**. He claimed that for years, he was subjected to racial and ethnic taunts in the workplace but management didn't do anything to stop it. **(2/28/14)**

Hani Khan from San Mateo, CA, a 20-year-old college student, is one of three women who sued Abercrombie & Fitch for either **not hiring, or firing, women wearing headscarves**. Samantha Elauf, a 19-year-old student from Oklahoma, filed filed suit in 2009, and an unnamed 18-year-old woman from Milpitas, CA sued them in 2010.

Imane Boudlal sued Walt Disney Co. in federal court, saying that she was **discriminated against and harassed for her religious beliefs**. She also alleges that she unfairly lost her job in 2010 after refusing to remove her hijab at work.

# Other Impacts

- Harassment in public places
- Additional security at airports
- Psychological impact:



- Negative effect on morale and self esteem
- Isolation leading to radicalization
- Feeling of alienation from the larger American society
- Defensiveness
- Fear reaction anytime anything happens in the world
- Distancing from Islam on the one hand, and getting closer to it on the other; both stemming from identity crises

# Media Portrayal of Muslims



“Nowadays, numerous media campaigns are going on against Islam and Muslims. Most Western media with considerable financial resources and multiple channels try to show a rough picture of Islam to their public. At the same time Muslim groups through various media outlets are trying to convey their messages, but in comparison to the global dominance of the western media, their efforts are somehow in vain.....

Most western media are using the September 11th event to capitalize its political gain. These media depict Islam as ‘fundamentalism,’ ‘extremism’ and ‘radicalism’. Of course, in the modern world where the role of media is central, the image of reality can be manipulated to misrepresent the actual facts. The media have tried to represent Muslims as ‘terrorists’ posing a threat to the western security.”

[Mirza Mesic, Imam, Professor of Islamic History at the Zagreb](#)

# Media Portrayal of Muslims

**“I found that organizations with negative messages about Muslims captivated the mass media after the Sept. 11 attacks, even though the vast majority of civil society organizations depict Muslims as peaceful, contributing members of American society ... As a result, public condemnations of terrorism by Muslims have received little media attention, but organizations spreading negative messages continue to stoke public fears that Muslims are secretly plotting to overthrow the U.S. government ... They are now so much a part of the mainstream that they have been able to recast genuinely mainstream Muslim organizations as radicals.”** (Christopher Bail, *American Sociological Review*, November 29, 2012)

“Extensive scholarly work has been done on Muslims’ representation in the media. The most central literature is by Edward Said when he writes about the Iranian Hostage Crisis in his book *Covering Islam* (1981). He points out that **the American media and its experts have failed to understand and explain the Arab and Muslim world to the American public.** More specifically, he argues that:

“Muslims and Arabs are essentially covered, discussed, apprehended either as suppliers of oil or as potential terrorists. **Very little of the detail, the human density, the passion of Arab-Muslim life has entered the awareness of even those people whose profession it is to report the Islamic world** (Said, 26).” (Muslim Americans & the Media after 9/11, Mohammad Abid Amiri, *Islam and Muslim Societies* [a social science journal], Vol. 5. No. 2 – 2012)

# What Can Be Done To Combat Islamophobia?

## ➤ Education:

- Educate yourself and others about the true teachings of Islam.
- Talk to your children



## ➤ Build relationships with your Muslim neighbors:

- Attend the "Building Bridges With Our Neighbors" Open House.
- Visit a local mosque.
- Meet Muslims.

## ➤ Speak Up. Speak Out:

- Join rallies and events that embrace diversity.
- Call your local, state and federal representatives to express your concern regarding the growing anti-Muslim sentiment.
- If you see or hear someone harassing another person because of their religion, speak up (or if is a volatile situation, contact the police).

